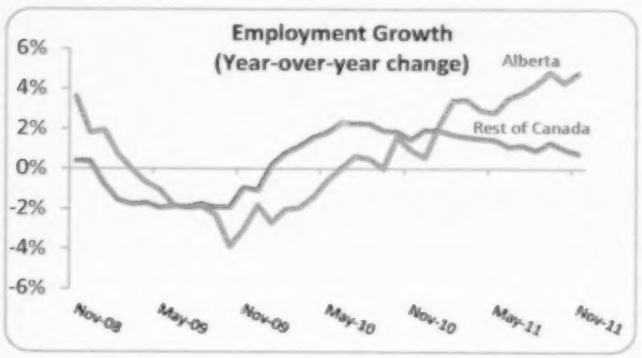
Labour Force

Alberta creates jobs amid national declines...

Alberta gained jobs in November for the seventh consecutive month. The province created 4,500 positions in contrast to a 18,600 drop in Canadian employment. Over the last 12 months, Alberta has experienced the strongest employment growth rate of all provinces (+4.8%) and has been responsible for 46% of Canada's overall job gains. Alberta's year over year employment growth has been accelerating since the beginning of the year, bucking the downward trend seen in the rest of Canada (see chart below).

Solid job creation pushed down Alberta's unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage points to 5%, the lowest in the country. Meanwhile, the national jobless rate inched up to 7.4% from 7.3% in October.

The details of the jobs report were also positive. The private sector continued to fuel Alberta's job gains with utilities, forestry, fishing, mining, quarry, oil and gas, and unclassified services seeing the largest percentage increases. All the job gains were concentrated in full-time positions last month, more than offsetting a decline in part-time jobs.



Alberta labour income posts strong gains ...

A strong labour market is driving up incomes. In the third quarter of 2011, labour income rose 1.2% from the previous quarter. Year to date, total labour income in Alberta is up almost 8% over the same period in 2010.

Canadian Real Gross Domestic Product

Canadian economy bounces back in the third quarter ...

Canada's real GDP rebounded in the third quarter following a slight decline in the second quarter. Real GDP advanced 0.9% (or 3.5% annualized) in the third quarter, led by sharp improvements in trade and residential investment. However, business investment fell in the third quarter for the first time in six quarters. Growth was widely expected to resume in the third quarter due to several temporary factors that disrupted Canada's second quarter results, including the effects of the Japanese earthquake and temporary interruptions in oil exports.

3.2%	**Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)**	
	December 2, 2011	98.38
	November 25, 2011	95.36
	2011-12 Fiscal YTD Average	101.44
3.8%	**WTI Oil US$/bbl**	
	December 2, 2011	$100.96
	November 25, 2011	$97.30
	2011-12 Fiscal YTD Average	$92.58
2.9%	**Nymex Natural Gas US$/MMBtu***	
	Near-month Contract	
	December 2, 2011	$3.58
	November 25, 2011	$3.48
	2011-12 Fiscal YTD Average	$4.06

**Based on the closing price of the near month contract*

Current Account

Stronger exports contribute to lower account deficit ...

Canada's current account deficit (seasonally adjusted) narrowed to $12.1 billion, decreasing by 4.0 billion in the third quarter. The main reason for the improvement was a swing from deficit to surplus on the goods trade balance, as exports of goods rose to their highest level in three years.

Rigs Drilling

Drilling activity stablizes ...

Drilling activity in Alberta edged down slightly for the second consecutive month in November. The number of rigs drilling in Alberta edged down slightly from 335 in October to 330 in November. Despite the monthly decrease, rigs drilling are up strongly over the last year, advancing 19.4% compared to November 2010.

US Economy

The US unemployment rate falls ...

Some positive signs emerged on the US jobs front, which has been struggling to find its footing since the end of the recession. The US created 120,000 jobs in November, all in the private sector, and revised payrolls up by 72,000 for the previous two months. Moreover, the US unemployment rate edged down from 9.0% to 8.6%, its lowest rate in almost 3 years. However, the decline was mainly caused by people exiting the labour force. As discouraged workers return to the labour force in search for work, many analysts suggest that the jobless rate may turn higher again.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2009	2010	2011YTD*	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Population [1] (000's) (level)	3,672	3,721	3,779	--	3,779	--	--	--	--
% change	2.2	1.3	1.6	--	1.6	--	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton [1] (level)	13,184	-2,183	13,660	--	4,720	--	--	--	--
Net International Migration [1] (level)	16,835	21,533	22,081	--	7,080	--	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents [1] (level)	19,162	-77	-7,988	--	1,233	--	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's) NEW!	2,025	2,017	2,090	2,091	2,103	2,110	2,118	2,126	2,130
% change	-1.3	-0.4	3.7	3.5	3.8	4.2	4.8	4.3	4.8
Unemployment Rate (%) NEW!	6.6	6.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.0
Participation Rate (%) NEW!	74.3	72.9	73.6	73.7	73.9	74.1	74.2	74.1	74.1
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	950.01	993.13	1,034.20	1,038.46	1,026.42	1,044.26	1,042.77	--	--
% change	2.8	4.5	4.6	4.7	2.6	4.3	3.8	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	-0.1	1.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.9	2.8	3.4	--
Excluding food and energy	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.4	1.1	--
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index [2]	-9.8	-0.1	3.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	-10.6	-3.9	16.7	15.9	14.7	10.7	--	--	--
Crops	-18.9	-14.5	19.0	22.4	20.2	9.2	--	--	--
Livestock	-2.8	5.7	16.6	13.4	13.2	14.2	--	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	20.0	27.1	24.7	23.7	25.6	31.2	24.6	31.6	--
% change	-31.6	33.5	-11.9	-11.6	-12.6	32.8	-10.9	22.0	--
New Housing Price Index	-9.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	--	--
Edmonton	-11.2	-0.8	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.9	-0.5	--	--
Calgary	-6.7	1.7	-0.1	-0.3	-0.8	-0.5	0.6	--	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	340.5	350.9	355.2	351.7	353.6	356.9	362.4	358.1	--
% change	-3.1	3.1	0.7	-1.3	0.4	2.4	2	2.9	--
Edmonton	319.1	326.5	324.8	322.6	326.1	325.5	332.5	326.9	--
% change	-3.5	2.3	-1.4	-1.8	0.0	-1.3	1.5	0.6	--
Calgary	384.3	397.4	402.2	399.3	399.2	405.7	408.5	402.6	--
% change	-4.2	3.4	0.8	-2.3	-0.9	3.6	-0.4	1.6	--
Retail Sales	-8.3	6.0	6.4	7.8	6.6	6.8	7.5	--	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-21.7	9.3	7.4	17	6.7	5.1	4.3	--	--
Consumer Bankruptcies	9,986	8,150	4,929	649	534	595	--	--	--
% change	64.6	-18.4	-10.9	-16.6	-14.7	-3.3	--	--	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling NEW!	128	207	276	150	240	323	346	335	330
% change	-45.6	61.3	42.2	26.9	20.8	45.4	95.5	28.7	19.4
Goods Exports (customs based)	-36.6	12.4	14.4	12.8	16.4	27.1	27.4	--	--
Energy	-40.2	17.2	14.9	11.9	19.2	28.8	27.6	--	--
Agriculture	-12.3	-14.4	5.9	-0.2	8.3	7.2	28.7	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	-8.0	-3.9	15.4	--	15.0	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	-23.7	11.0	17.5	16.4	17.0	18.3	22.4	--	--
Wholesale Trade	-15.9	10.8	14.2	18.3	15.7	13.8	12.1	--	--
Building Permits	-14.2	2.1	6.8	-14.9	17.4	39.4	28.2	--	--
Residential	-11.8	24.7	-2.4	-3.6	9.5	29.0	33.4	--	--
Non-residential	-16.3	-19.0	20.2	-26.1	30.3	53.0	21.3	--	--
Business Bankruptcies	405	378	174	16	15	26	--	--	--
% change	-9.4	-6.7	-32.3	-30.4	-44.4	-13.3	--	--	--

Government of Alberta
Finance

Alberta

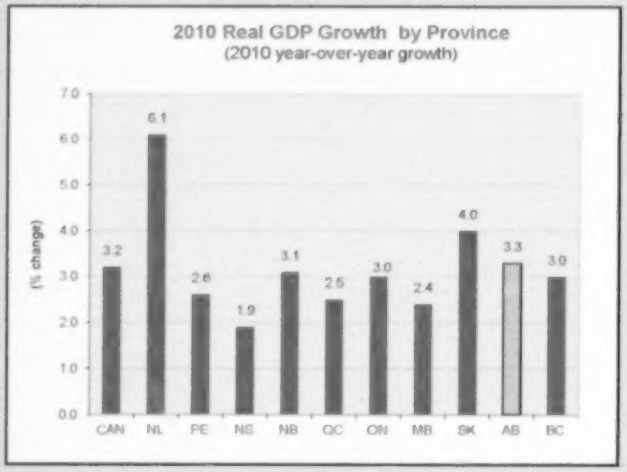
* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

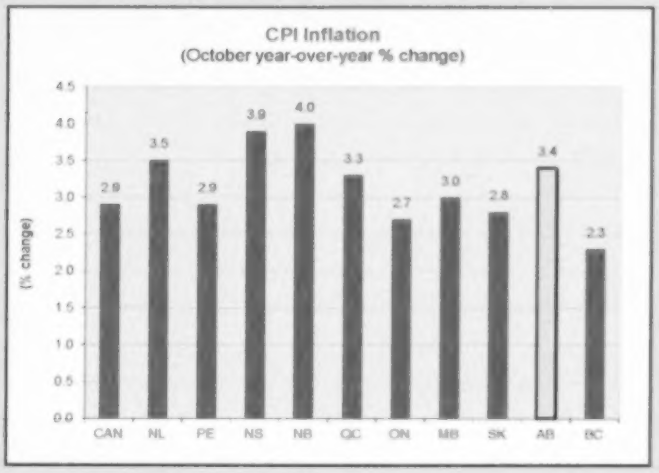
[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1–June 30).

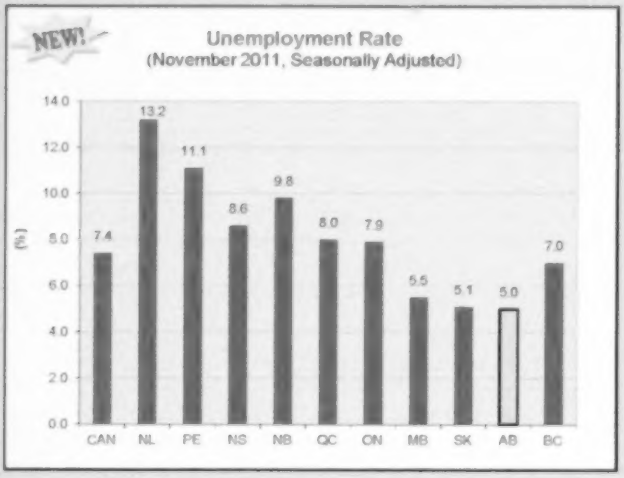
[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

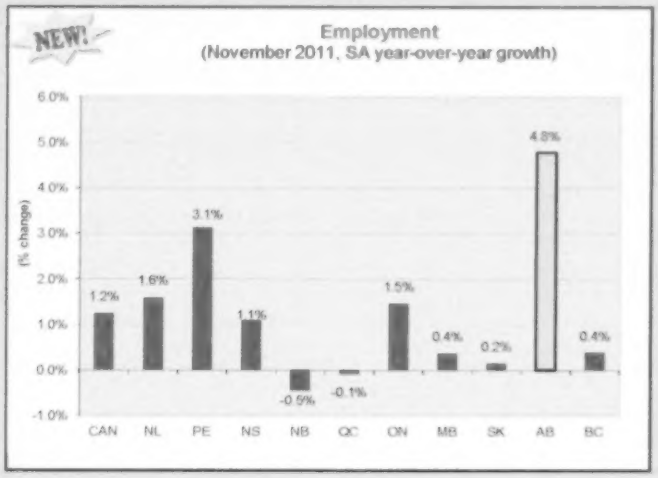
Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

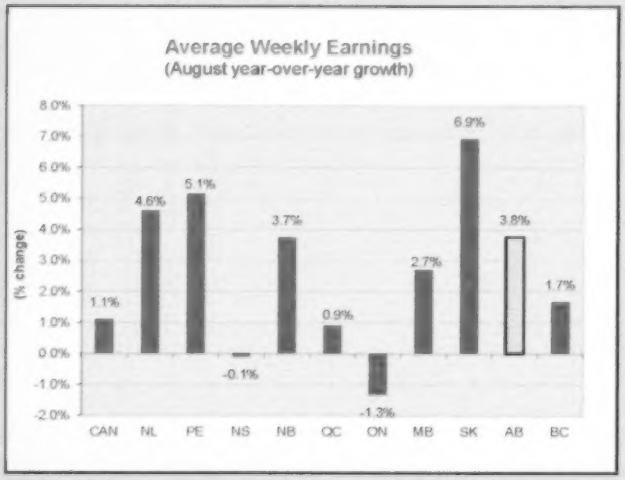
Current Economic Indicators by Province

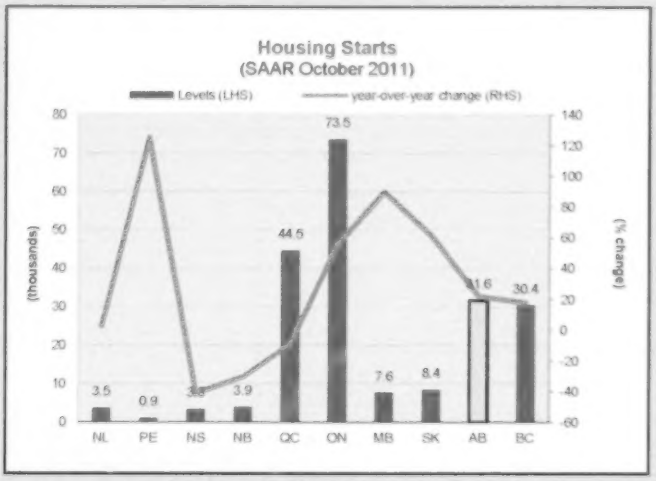












Government of Alberta
Finance

Alberta